

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05 /073 W

----- 104706

R 290844Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 498

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0625

E.O.1311652: GDS

TAGS : OREP (ABOUREZK, JAMES), PFOR, QA, US, XF

SUBJECT : SENATOR ABOUREZK'S VISIT TO QATAR

REF: STATE 114127, DOHA 580 AND 615

1. SUMMARY: SENATOR JAMES ABOUREZK VISITED QATAR ON MAY 28. HE MET WITH AMIR, FOREIGN MINISTER, AND OTHER SENIOR GOQ OFFICIALS. SENATOR MADE CLEAR HE WAS NOT US POLICY SPOKESMAN, MADE SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF ARAB IMAGE IN US, AND NOTED HIS OWN EFFORTS TO EXPLAIN ARAB CAUSE FAIRLY. AMIR LAMENTED US SLOWNESS TO PERCEIVE REASONABLENESS OF ARAB POSITION, ANDKR DEPLORED US INTERVENTION THREATS. AMIR SAID HE HAD HIGH HOPES FOR FORD-SADAT SUMMIT, AND BELIEVED IN PRESIDENT'S DETERMINATION TO PRESS FOR JUST MID EAST SETTLEMENT. AMIR ASSURED THAT IHIONIST MACHINATIONS WOULD NOT SUCCEED IN ALIENATING ARABS FROM U.S. FOREIGN MINISTER WARNED THAT INCOMPREHENSIBLE US BIAS TOWARDS ISRAEL WAS DAMAGING US VITAL INTERESTS IN AREA AND ENCOURAGING INTENSIFIED COMMUNIST EFFORTS IN REGION. SENAOTR ABOUREZK'S VISIT USEFUL AND HE VERY WELL RECEIVED. END SUMMARY.

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2. SEN. JAMES ABOUREZK PAID EIGHT HOUR VISIT TO QATAR MAY 28.

GOQ'S ADVISORY

COUNCIL WAS SENATOR'S ORGANIZATIONAL

HOST.

HE HAD MEETINGS WITH THE AMFJ, SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL THANI, FOREIGN MINISTER SHAYKH SUHAYM BIN HAMAD AL THANI, AND ARMED FORCES COMMANDER, SHAYKH HAMAD BIN KHALIFA AL THANI, AND HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER LOCAL PERSONALITIES AT GOVERNMENT AND AMBASSADOR HOSTED SOCIAL FUNCTIONS.

3. SENATOR HAD RELAXED 45 MINUTE DISCUSSION WITH AMIR. AMIR LAMENTED THAT ALTHOUGH ARABS HAD OFFERED MAXIMUM CONCESSIONS AND HAD DONE THEIR BEST TO EXPLAIN THEMSELVES AND THEIR CAUSE TO U.S., N S REACTIONS HAD BEEN "SLOW". ACCORDING KHALIFA, DESPITE ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE, US HAD CONTINUEDR TO STAND BY ISRAEL, ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT US HAD MUCH BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF ARAB SIDE OF QUESTION. HE REITERATED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS UNDERSTANDING SLOW IN COMING, AND COMPARED WHAT HE REGARDED US TARDINESS WITH FULL APPRECIATION AND SUPPORT ARAB POLICY HAS ATTRACTED IN RBFT OF WORLD. KHALIFA CARRIED ON AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT "INTERNATIONAL ZIONIST CONSPIRACY" WHICH, HE SAID, DOMINATED US POLICY AND INTENT ON SABOTAGING US-ARAB RELATIONS. AMIR SAID THAT ARABS HAD WISED UP TO THIS, AND HE ASSERTED THAT ARABS DETERMINED TO HAVE BEST POSSIBLE RELATIONS WITH U.S., AND WOULD FRUSTRATE ZIONIST MACHINATIONS DESIGNED TO PREVENT THIS.

4. SEN. ABOUREZK PREFACED HIS RESPONSE BY CAREFULLY EXPLAINING THAT AS LEGISLATOR AND MEMBER OF "OPPOSITION PARTY", HIS VIEWS WERE NOT THISE OF THE ADMINISTRATION, AND, THEREFORE, HE SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS US OFFICIAL POLICY SPOKESMAN. HE STRESSED THAT THE ARABS MUST IMPROVE THE PRESENTATION OF THEIR RUUSE TO THE US PUBLIC, WHICH, GIVEN ITS BASIC FAIR-MINDEDNESS, WOULD MAKE A PROPER ASSESSMENT OF US INTERESTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WITH RESULTANT FAVORABLE IMPACT ON US POLICY TOWARD ARABS. HE REMARKED THAT ONCE US PUBLIC GOT THE TRUE PICTURE, THERE NO LONGER WOULD BE PRO-ISRAEL LETTERS SIGNED BY 75 SENATORS. SENATOR NOTED HIS OWN EFFORTS TO GIVE FAIR EXPLANTION OF ARAB POSITION IN CONGRESS AND TO US CONFIDENTIAL

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5. AMIR REFERRED TO THREATS BY SEC DEFENSE AND SECRETARY TV USE FORCE AGAINST OIL PRODUCING STATES IN THIS AREA. HE SAID THESE WERE INADMISSIBLE AND HAD DAMAGED US-ARAB RELATIONS, AND HE DIDN'T WANT TO HEAR ANY MORE OF THEM. SENATOR REPLIED THAT HE DIDN'T TAKE THESE THREATS SERIOUSLY SINCE THEY RAN COUNTER OT OTHER US ACTIVITIES IN AREA, SUCH AS OUR MILITARY

ASSISTANCE TO SAUDI ARABIA. AMIR REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH HE TOO COULD DISCOUNT THE RELIABILITY OF SUCH THREATS, THEIR PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT HAD NEVERTHELESS BEEN HARMFUL TO US-ARAB RELATIONS. AT THIS POINT AMBASSADOR REMINDED AMIR OF PRESIDENT FORD'S MAY 23 STATEMENT, TEXT OF WHICH HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO HIM. AMIR ACKNOWLEDGED HIS APPRECIATION OF PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT, BUT SAID PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNNECESSARY IF THERE HAD NOT BEEN PRECEDING THREATS. HE SAID IT NOT SENSIBLE TO DELIBERATELY OPEN A WOUND THAT YOU KNOW YOU'LL HAVE TO TREAT LATER. (AFTER MEETING CONCLUDED, AMIR DREW AMBASSADOR ASIDE AND AGAIN EMPHASIZED PSYCHOLOGICAL DAMAGE CAUSED BY INVASION THREATS FROM SENIOR US OFFICIALS.)

6. CONVERSATION THEN TURNED TO FORD-SADAT SUMMIT. AMIR SAID ARABS HAD GREAT EXPECTATIONS THAT SALZBURG MEETING WOULD PRODUCE POSITIVE RESULTS, AND BELIEVED THAT PRESIDENT FORD HIMSELF DETERMINED TO PRESS FORWARD FOR JUST MID EAST SOLUTION IN FACE OF ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE. RE SECRETARY, AMIR WONDERED ABOUT EFFICACY OF "STEP BY STEP" POLICY, WHICH HE REGARDED AS PERHAPS OVEREMPHASIZING "MANEUVERING". (IN A NUMBER OF PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR, AMIR HAS EXPRESSED HIS FULL SUPPORT FOR LOGIC OF "STEP BY STEP" PROCEDURE.) AMIR, AS USUAL, HEAPED PRAISE ON SADAT'S STATESMANSHIP, MODERATION AND VISION.

7. AGAIN IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS MEMBER OF "OPPOSITION PARTY", SEN. ABOUREZK STATED THAT HE TOO BELIEVED PRESIDENT DETERMINED TO PRESS FOR JUST MID EAST SOLUTION DESPITE ISRAELI RECALCITRANCE. SENATOR THEN MENTIONED HIS OWN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR US RECOGNITION OF PLO. AMIR REPLIED THAT ALMOST EVERYBODY ELSE HAS RECOGNIZED PLO AND ALTHOUGH HE WAS SURE US WOULD EVENTUALLY GO ALONG, AGAIN IT WAS VERY SLOW TO MOVE, AND THE SOONER THE BETTER.

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8. DURING SENATOR'S BRIEF MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SHAYKH SUHAYM, SUHAYM LAID BLAME FOR US BIAS TOWARD ISRAEL ON WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESS, AND SAID HE JUST COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW USG COULD PURSUE POLICY IN AREA THAT WAS DAMAGING TO ITS OWN INTERESTS. SUHAYM LISTENED CAREFULLY TO SENATOR'S SUGGESTIONS ON HOW ARAB IMAGE IN US COULD BE IMPROVED. HE ESPOUSED THEME THAT ARABS NEED PEACE SO THAT THEY MAY DEVELOP AREA FOR BENEFIT OF ALL. HE ISSUED FAMILIAR WARNING THAT ALTHOUGH COMMUNISTS ANATHEMA TO ARABS, US POLICY PUSHING ARABS TOWARD COMMUNISTS. HE CAUTIONED THAT COMMUNIST SUCCESSES IN SEA WOULD INTENSIFY THEIR EFFORTS IN MID EAST, AND THIS GREAT DANGER NOT ONLY TO AREA BUT ALSO TO U.S.

9. ABOUREZK VISIT WAS COVERED BY QATARI TV, RADIO AND PRESS. MAY 29 EDITION OF DAILY "AL ARAB" CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH SENATOR

UNDER HEADLINE "I AM AGAINST 76 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS;  
THEIR MESSAGE TO FORD AGGRAVATES THE PROBLEM". IN BODY OF  
INTERVIEW SENAOTR QUOTED AS SAYING FURTHER "I DON'T AGREE AT  
ALL WITH CONTENTS OF THEIR MESSAGE . . . IN MY OPINION GIVING  
WEAPONS TO ISRAEL FURTHER COMPLICATES THE SITUATION . . .".

10. COMMENT: SEN. ABOUREZK'S VISIT WAS USEFUL FOR OVERALL  
US INTERESTS HERE. GOQ APPRECIATED ATTENTION OF PROMINENT  
ARAB AMERICAN, WHO ALSO SENATOR, WHO PORTRAYED HIMSELF AS  
"BROTHER" AND WAS GENUINELY AND SINCERELY RECEIVED AS SUCH.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CODELS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PEACE TALKS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 09 APR 2003  
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**Subject:** : SENATOR ABOUREZK'S VISIT TO QATAR  
**TAGS:** OREP, PFOR, QA, US, XF, (ABOUREZK, JAMES)  
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**Type:** TE  
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